

Message Text

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ADDIS FOR CODEL DIGGS

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TAGS: PREF

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS

REF: LUSAKA 2180 (NOTAL) 2166

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE HERE ON CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' REMARKS DECEMBER 2 RE AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIRS OF MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD.

2. QUOTE: MR. CHARLES DIGGS, AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, MADE A STATEMENT IN NAIROBI ON DECEMBER 2, 1973, IN WHICH HE WARNED AFRICA TODAY ABOUT BECOMING TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SAID HE DID NOT PARTICULARLY LIKE TO SEE THE MIDDLE EAST GETTING MIXED UP IN AFRICAN POLITICS AS AFRICA HAD SUFFICIENT PROBLEMS OF HER OWN.

3. MR. DIGGS REFERRED TO THE SO-CALLED ARAB SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA, AND ALLEGED THAT MAERICAN STUDENTS IN CAIRO UNIVERSITY HAD TOLD HIM OF COLOR PROBLEMS THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN THE EGYPTIAN CAPITAL.

4. SUCH ALLEGATIONS WILL NOT SURPRISE US, AS IMPERIALISM SPARED UNCLASSIFIED

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NO EFFORT TO SEPARATE BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES,

AND BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. THE REASON IS SO SIMPLE, AS IMPERIALISM WILL BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AS THE OLD COLONIAL PATTERNS OF TRADE ARE NOW LIABLE TO CHANGE BY THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARAB AND AFRICAN NATURAL RESOURCES.

5. THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY MERGED FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE O.A.U.

6. DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL'S EXPANSIONIST RACIAL POLICY AND HER CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES INCLUDING SINAI -- A PART OF AFRICA -- THE VAST MAJORITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES SEVERED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THIS SIGN OF REAL SOLIDARITY AND UNITY AMONG AFRICAN SISTER COUNTRIES, SHOCKED PEOPLE LIKE MR. DIGGS WHO CANNOT IMAGINE THAT AFRICA'S SECURITY AND PEACE IS A COMMON ISSUE FOR ALL THE AFRICANS, AND IF THEY ARE THREATENED IN THE NORTH OF THE CONTINENT, THIS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REFLECTED ON THE SOUTH, AND VICE-VERSA.

7 THE UNSACRED ALLIANCE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL CAME INTO LIGHT DURING THE OCTOBER, 1973 WAR, WHEN SOUTH AFRICA HASTENED TO SUPPORT ISRAEL NOT ONLY BY PLANES, BUT ALSO BY PILOTS.

8. MORE THAN 15 THOUSAND AFRICAN AND ASIAN STUDENTS (INCLUDING ZAMBIANS) ARE STUDYING IN EGYPT. NOBODY HAS EVER HEARD OF COLOR PROBLEMS THERE. THE COLOR PROBLEMS ARE INDEED WELL KNOWN WHERE MR. DIGGS COMES FROM. IT MAY BE USEFUL TO MENTION THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE MOSTLY EITHER BLACK OR COLORED.

9. IN 1965 MOST OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES SEVERED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM FOLLOWING THE RHODESIAN U.D.8I. IN 1973 ALL OF THEM RECOGNIZED GUINEA-BISSAU, WHILE THE U.S. AND THE IMPERIALIST AND RACIST REGIMES DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE FREEDOM SEEKING STATE.

10. THE ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS LAST MONTH, IMPOSED A COMPLETE OIL EMBARGO ON RACIST REGIMES: RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL.

11. SOON AFTER RHODESIA'S BLOCKADE OF ITS BORDERS WITH ZAMBIA IN JANUARY, 1973, THE ARAB COUNTRIES DECLARED THEIR COMPLETE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPORT TO ZAMBIA, BOTH POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY.

12. THE ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS AGREED TO ESTABLISH AND AFRO-ARAB BANK TO HELP EXPEDITING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA WITH A STARTING CAPITAL OF 120 MILLION DOLLARS.

13. THIS CLEARLY SHOWS WHO STANDS BESIDES WHOM.

14. IT IS WORTH REQUOTING MR. DIGG'S OWN WORDS CONCERNING
ARAB-AFRICAN RELATIONS TO SHOW HOW HE CONTRADICTED HIMSELF:

15 'I BELIEVE THE NEW AFRICAN-ARAB ALLIANCE WHICH HAD EMERGED
SINCE THE OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR, WAS HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE
BLACK COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. AND WOULD AFFECT U.S. POLICIES.

16. 'I SENSE A RISING TIDE OF SYMPATHY WITH THE ARAB SITUATION
....PARTICULARLY AMONG BLAK STUDENTS. AND THIS IS BEGINNING
TO BROADEN ITS BASE.' END QUOTE

17. PORTIONS FOREGOING CARRED IN PRESS HERE.WILKOWSKI

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